

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 24, 2005. Claims 22-26 are presented for examination, of which Claims 22-26 are in independent form. Claims 1-21 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 22-26 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, 12-15 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,545,768 (Matsubara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,605 (Idehara). Claims 2, 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being upatentable over Matsubara in view of Idehara, and further in view of European Patent Application Publication No. EP 812100 A2 (Ishibashi). Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being upatentable over Matsubara in view of Idehara, and further in view of Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. JP 10126600 (Yazaki).

Cancellation of Claims 1-21 renders their rejections moot, but Applicants submit the following comments regarding the patentability of new Claims 22-26 over these cited references.

Claim 22 is directed to a communication apparatus including means for connecting to a public communication line, a scanner for reading an image, means for converting the image read by the scanner to have a predetermined format, and means for executing a sending process to a server connected to the public communication line in a case where it is necessary to send the converted image as an electronic mail to the Internet. The apparatus includes means for registering a facsimile number of a destination for an abbreviation number and means for registering an electronic mail address of the destination for the same abbreviation number. Also

included in the apparatus are a key corresponding to the abbreviation number, a key representing facsimile sending, and a key representing electronic mail sending. The apparatus further includes means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number in a case where the key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number and means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address in a case where the key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number.

The public communication line is a digital communication line capable of simultaneously executing plural communications. The apparatus additionally comprises means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number by using a first communication channel, and means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address by using a second communication channel, in a case where the key representing the facsimile sending and the key representing the electronic mail sending are depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number.

Matsubara relates to communication equipment including a facsimile apparatus 1 and a facsimile apparatus 2 that are connected by an internet leased line and a telephone line. Image data can be transferred between facsimile apparatus 1 and facsimile apparatus 2 through the internet leased line and the telephone line. In designating the transmission destination, a user can enter the facsimile number and electronic mail address of the recipient.

However, Applicants have found nothing in Matsubara that would teach or suggest at least the features of “means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number in a case where said key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number,” or “means for executing the electronic mail

sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address in a case where said key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number,” as recited in Claim 22. In addition, Applicants have found nothing in Matsubara that would teach or suggest that “the public communication line is a digital communication line capable of simultaneously executing plural communications,” or that the “apparatus comprises means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number by using a first communication channel, and means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address by using a second communication channel, in a case where said key representing the facsimile sending and said key representing the electronic mail sending are depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number,” as recited in Claim 22.

The disclosure of Idehara does not remedy the deficiencies of Matsubara.

Idehara, as understood by Applicants, relates to communication equipment in which information on a communication route available at a partner station is received from the partner station by communication with the partner station via a telephone line without using an abbreviation member. Applicants submit that nothing in Idehara has been found that would teach or suggest the above mentioned features of Claim 22.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants’ opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 22.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 22 is patentable over the cited prior art whether considered separately or in combination.

Independent Claims 22-26 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 22 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for

the reasons discussed above.

In addition, Applicants submit that nothing has been found in the cited prior art that would teach or suggest the additional features of Claim 23 of “a key representing simultaneous sending of the facsimile and the electronic mail, said key being depressed pursuant to the abbreviation number” or “wherein said apparatus executes the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number by using a first communication channel, and executes the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address by using a second communication channel, in a case where said key representing the simultaneous sending is depressed.”

Applicants further submit that nothing has been found in the cited prior art that would teach or suggest the additional features of Claim 24 of “means for registering, in the registering process for the abbreviation number, input data as the electronic mail address in a case where said key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed pursuant to depression of the electronic mail address” or “means for registering, in the registering process for the abbreviation number, the input data as the facsimile number in a case where said key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to depression of the facsimile number.”

Applicants further submit that nothing has been found in the cited prior art that would teach or suggest the additional feature of Claim 25 of “means for registering, in the registering process for the abbreviation number, input data as the electronic mail address in a case where a specific symbol used in the electronic mail address is included in the input data.”

Applicants further submit that nothing has been found in the cited prior art that would teach or suggest the additional features of Claim 26 of “a first CPU (central processing

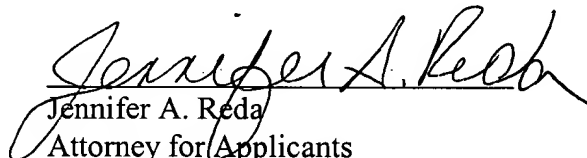
unit) for detecting that said key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed, means for notifying a second CPU that said first CPU executed the detection, and means for forming electronic mail data when said second CPU receives the notification” or “wherein said second CPU causes said means for executing a sending process to execute the sending process to the server connected to the public communication line.”

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Early and favorable continued examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200